

DESERT AIRMAN

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Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Friday, Dec. 22, 2000

Season's Greetings Team D-M



Commander's Corner

Commander sends holiday greetings to Team D-M



As we rapidly approach the final days of the year and turn our focus inward toward our families, Team D-M members of all faiths can look forward to some well-deserved rest.

The holiday season reminds us of the importance of life's greatest gifts and gives us cause to cherish them. In doing so, please remember those who are deployed overseas

or not sharing the holidays with their loved ones this year. The new year holds great promise for us all and I ask that you celebrate the holidays responsibly and keep safety in mind as your travel near and far.

On behalf of my family and the greater D-M Family, enjoy this blessed holiday season.

Col. Bobby Wilkes
355th Wing Commander

Commander's Salute
This week, I salute **Lt. Col Mark Roling, 354th Fighter Squadron**, for becoming the first active duty pilot to earn the distinction of 4,000 flying hours in an A-10. Sierra Hotel!

Supporting each other and working together to provide the best programs and services is a common goal we all share as members of Team D-M.

Ideas, suggestions, comments and kudos are an important ingredient for continuous improvement. The fastest way to pass along comment or to get an answer to your concern is to contact the agency chief or functional manager listed here.
Still no solution? The Commander's Corner phone line is available 24 hours a day, at **228-4747**, or you can send an e-mail to us at: 355thWing.CommandersCorner@dm.af.mil.
If you leave your name, phone number and a message, you'll receive a prompt reply, either in writing or by telephone. We will honor your

Top Hawg Driver

Lt. Col. Mark Roling, 354th Fighter Squadron, performs a pre-flight inspection on his A-10 before his historic flight Tuesday. Roling made history with his flight by becoming the first active duty pilot to fly 4,000 hours in an A-10.

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Erickson

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| confidentiality, but sometimes we need to contact callers to gather additional information. If your concern is of general interest to the base populace, the response may be published in the <i>Desert Airman</i> . Anonymous calls may not be published in the newspaper, we recommend you leave a contact phone number if you'd like us to provide an answer. | |
| AAFES Agencies | 748-7887 |
| Accounting and Finance | 228-4964 |
| Chaplain | 8-5411 |
| Civil Engineering | 8-3401 |
| Clinic | 8-2930 |
| Commissary | 8-3116 |
| Family Support | 8-5690 |
| Fitness Center | 8-3714 |
| Housing Office | 8-3687 |
| Inspector General | 8-3559 |
| Legal | 8-6432 |
| Lodging | 8-4845 |
| Military/Civilian | |
| Equal Opportunity Office | 8-5509 |
| Military Personnel | 8-5689 |
| Public Affairs | 8-3204 |
| Security Forces | 8-6178 |
| Services | 8-5596 |
| Transportation | 8-3584 |

Your Final Answer?

What are your plans for New Year's Eve?



Senior Airman Lawrence Nicholson
355th Communications Squadron

"It will be a last minute decision. I really don't know, but I do know I won't be working like I did last year."



Retired Tech. Sgt. Ray and Shirley Hiler
Canyon Lake, Texas

"We hope to be staying at the Davis Monthan FamCamp. So we will be staying in our home here."



Airman Mark Cornejo
355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

"I'll go back home to San Diego."



Staff Sgt. Joey Lujano
42nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron

"I'll probaby be working on my house. I try to squeeze in any time I can to finish a few projects." (Lujano is preparing to move to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.)



Valerie Johnson
Contractor

"My husband and I will walk to our local tavern, have a champaign toast and walk home. I don't care to drive on this day."



Staff Sgt. Latersa Frazier
355th Services Squadron

"I'm taking Christmas off, so I'll be working New Year's Eve. After work, I'll stay home with my husband and daughter."

Around D-M

Major selectees

Twenty-two D-M captains were selected for promotion to major. Selections were released Thursday.

Major selectees are: Jeffrey Addison, Richard Fojtik, Bradley Henson, John Landrum, Michael Leonas and Robert Nelson, 355th Operations Group; David Andrus, 25th Operational Weather Squadron; Keli Bedics, 12th Air Force; Nicole Blatt, Air National Guard Readiness (Tucson); Joseph Cody, 355th Medical Support Squadron; David Delmonaco, 41st Electronic Combat Squadron; Jeffrey Fischer, 355th Training Squadron; Bruce Gooch, 355 Mission Support Squadron; Joseph Kiefer, Area Defense Counsel; Timothy Kraner, 612th Air Intelligence Squadron; Mark Lambertsen, 354th Fighter Squadron; Daniel Marcalus, Det. 3, Air Combat Command Training Support Squadron; Sam Morgan, 357th Fighter Squadron; Rick Mussi, 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron; William Polakowski, Air Force Element/TAC 3; Christopher Small, 355th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and Paul Szostak, 355th Wing.

OTS selectee

Staff Sgt. Dionne Whirry, 42nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron, has been selected for Officer Training School.

Holiday cover

Special thanks to Airmen 1st Class Jermaine Rowe, April Miller, Jason Corradi and Staff Sgt. John Reed, 355th Communications Squadron, for designing the *Desert Airman* holiday cover.

Welcome to D-M

Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Colorado senator.

Maj. Gen. Timothy Peppe, Air Force Chief of Safety.

**Days since
last D-M DUI:**

11



**Need a ride? Call Airmen
Against Drunk Driving
at 850-2233.**

(Current as of Thursday)

Attic helps all airmen, not just the needy

By 1st Lt. Nikki Credic
Public Affairs

In a rare case of giving outside the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base community, Airman's Attic members recently donated cookies to the Santas in Blue effort. Traditionally this organization is on the receiving end of donations.

The Airman's Attic accepts donations to help E-4s and below with everything from clothes to household goods.

"People should donate to the Airman's Attic because there's no finer cause in our opinion of airmen helping fellow airmen," said Master Sgt. Kevin Jurgella, Airman's Attic director. "For military members who want to donate to us, our contract to them is the items they're donating will go to airmen at D-M."

"Anything and everything" is donated to the Airman's Attic, Jurgella

explained. "When someone walks into the Airman's Attic, they can find anything and everything from clothes to small kitchen appliances, not to mention furniture. No hidden cost, everything is free."

For the upcoming holiday, the Airman's Attic has a treat in store for its customers.

"We have a Christmas room we opened just for the holidays. Throughout the year, the volunteer staff set aside really nice, nearly brand-new items to be given away at this time of the year," he said.

For potential future customers, Jurgella wants the Airman's Attic to be seen as a place that all E-4s and below can use, not just the ones who need help.

Jurgella meets with First-Term Airman classes to dispel that myth.

"Every Monday evening the First-Term Airman class comes in. At 5 p.m., I address them and tell them

they're here for two reasons: to make them aware of the Airman's Attic and that it's for them," he said. "I tell them to take advantage of this benefit, and if they don't want to, pass the word on to their coworkers and friends who may be interested."

"I believe what is said to them helps dispel the negative connotation attached to accepting items from a charitable organization. Based on the repeat business we get, I think the message is clear."

To donate to the Airman's Attic, people can drop off items 24 hours a day at Building 3220 on the second floor. Volunteers will also arrange to pick up items Monday evenings from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Call 8-4098 for more information.

"If you want to give back to the airmen here at D-M and really make a difference right here on the base, there is no finer vehicle in place to make this happen," Jurgella said.

D-M officer competes for overseas studies

A Davis-Monthan Air Force Base officer is one of seven Air Force officers selected to compete with representatives of the other services for the privilege of being named an Olmsted Scholar and the opportunity to study abroad.

Capt. Paul Szostak, 355th Wing executive officer, is competing for one of three positions for the 2001-2002. The program, in its 42nd year, sponsors officers with an in-depth understanding of a foreign culture so they'll become sensitive to the viewpoints and concerns of people around the world.

The Air Force's preliminary board met Nov. 16 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and considered 15 officers. The board considered the applicants' scholastic ability, language aptitude and qualities of leadership, according to personnel officials.

The final Olmsted selections are expected to be released May 1.

Other Air Force representatives are: Capt. Amy Andersson, Edwards AFB, Fla.; Capt. Steven Gilver, Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Capt. Robert Spalding, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; Capt. Daniel Szarka, Dover AFB, Del.; Capt. Mark Visconi, Hurlburt Field AFB, Fla.; and Capt. Scott Wallace, Edwards AFB, Calif.

If selected for the Olmsted program, the officers have the opportunity to study overseas for two years. The program involves the cultural immersion of the officers and families, if they have one, as well as studying at a university in its native language.

This year, the Olmsted Foundation scholars will attend universities outside Western Europe. In the last few years there has been a high concentration of scholars in Western Europe, and the foundation is encouraging study in more diverse areas such as the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America or countries of the former Soviet Union.

AF announces changes in Oregon, Florida, Arizona

The Air Force announced Dec. 15 a force-structure change plan affecting people, aircraft and organizations in Oregon, Florida and Arizona. This change results from mission changes, adjustments for efficiency and implementation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept.

Air Force Reserve Command's 939th Rescue Wing at Portland International Airport, Ore., will convert to a Reserve air-refueling wing beginning in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2002. The new wing will include eight KC-135R aerial-refueling aircraft. Air Force Reserve Command will temporarily maintain a pararescue-team presence at

Portland IAP for an undetermined time. This mission change will result in an increase of four full-time Air Reserve Technician positions, while the unit's Reserve authorizations (part-time drill) will be reduced by 107 positions.

The combat search and rescue assets from Portland, consisting of eight HH-60 helicopters and five HC-130 aircraft, will be an active force-structure gain to Air Combat Command and relocated to a stateside base. ACC will begin site visits this year to determine the future location of these CSAR assets.

AFRC will immediately begin actions to convert the Reserve's 920th

Rescue Group at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., into a rescue wing structure. This action will involve the transfer of position authorizations, not force-structure assets, to the 920th. The Reserve's 305th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., which reports to the 939th in Portland, will report to the new rescue wing at Patrick AFB after the conversion.

Before making final decisions concerning this movement of forces, the Air Force will conduct appropriate environmental analyses and ensure compliance with Clean Air Act provisions. (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

FSC staffer remembers Christmas in Vietnam

By Karen Halstead
Public Affairs

It was 1968 and the United States was deep into the Vietnam War.

Nineteen-year-old Clayton Moore of Detroit, Mich., thought it would be safer to enlist into the military than to be drafted and serve in Vietnam.

So, he joined the Air Force and went off to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic training with a follow-on assignment to Keesler AFB, Miss., for technical training as an administrative specialist.

While assigned at McClellan AFB, Calif., Moore was notified to “come pick up orders to Phan Rang Air Base. I thought it was in Japan,” Moore, a now-retired chief master sergeant said. “I happily went to the squadron personnel office to get my orders only to find out that Phan Rang wasn’t in Japan, but Vietnam.”

Of course there probably wasn’t a good time to serve in the Vietnam War or any other war, but Moore arrived in Vietnam after an 18 1/2 hour flight Dec. 9, 1969.

“Knowing I was going in December, my emotions ran high,” he said. “I did a lot of praying and went to church a lot before I left. I don’t think I was much different than any other 19-year-old at the time. I was plenty apprehensive, but at the same time just wanted to get it over with.

“When I first saw the base, I thought, how did I get myself into this,” Moore said. “Then I quickly realized I had to learn everything I could about protecting myself while I was there. I didn’t want to become a casualty. So many others were casualties not because of the war, but because they did things that weren’t smart, they didn’t protect themselves.”



Courtesy photo

In 1969, then-Airman 1st Class Clayton Moore takes a break from typing at the fire station in Phan Rang.

With Christmas only a few weeks away, “Missing my family and friends became more intense, their absence was more profound,” he said, “All my other friends who had chosen to be drafted were safe and warm back home in the states. I’m the only one sent to Vietnam.”

You might say he missed the simple things. “I missed the smell of Christmas, the tree, the snow,” he said while he looked into the distance, almost as if he was looking into a snow globe and reliving his past.

“If you did get cards, they were late,” Moore said. “The mail system then wasn’t anything like it is today. We didn’t get care packages from home

either, although we did get care packages from the American Red Cross, things like razors and soap.”

Christmas Eve everyone worked, according to Moore. But Christmas Day everyone had off. Probably the most important part of the holiday was the peace and quiet.

Many people who think of war times easily recall the famous television show M*A*S*H. It seems as though they could appropriate anything they wanted anytime they wanted, that includes holiday decorations.

Think twice, because in real life it wasn’t that easy.

“We really didn’t have many decorations,” he said. “We were lucky to have a tree. Trees were placed in busy places like the Red Cross building and the recreation center.

“The Red Cross provided all our entertainment,” he said. “They gave us a pool table and a ping pong table. At other times we would listen to music, the oldies but goodies, which are really old now. Some guys would listen and cry. I cried too. I wondered how I could get out of there.

“The biggest problem we endured was a communication problem,” Moore said. “Not knowing what was happening around you until it happened. By the time the rockets reached you, you were already heading for the shelter before the siren would go off.”

For his time spent in the Vietnam, he feels he was one of the fortunate ones who escaped injury.

He served 30 years and three days on active duty and retired in 1998 from the 355th Communications Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, where he served as the chief enlisted manager of communications and information. Moore continues to serve at D-M’s Family Support Center as the base volunteer resource coordinator.

Nurse details Chanukah meaning, family traditions

By Capt. Stephanie Bardack
355th Medical Group

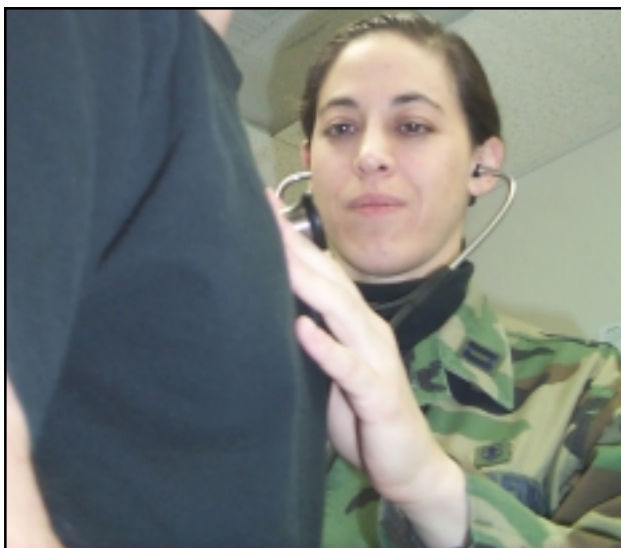
While you may know that Chanukah falls around Christmas-time, what you may not know is why Jews celebrate the holiday, what it celebrates and some of the traditions observed during the holiday.

Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah) celebrates the Maccabee’s victory over the religious oppression of the Greek Syrians and the re-dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BC.

The reason for the eight days of celebration and the associated eight candles comes from the legend that when the temple was re-claimed, there was only enough oil to light the altar candle for one day. Amazingly, the oil lasted for the eight days it took to process more oil.

While this explains why the holiday is celebrated for eight days, and why candles are lit on an eight-branched menorah each night, it doesn’t explain some of the other traditions, such as gift-giving each night, latkes, gelt or dreidles.

Although Chanukah celebrates the Hebrews refusal to assimilate into the ruling culture of the time, however, in recent times it has turned into a different type of celebration, largely due to the



Senior Airman Shanda De Anda

Capt. Stephanie Bardack listens to a patient’s heart at the 355th Medical Group.

assimilation of Jews into Western European culture.

It allows modern Jews to be part of the holiday season that started as a pagan winter festival and has since come to be associated with the birth of the Christian Christ figure, also a time of gift giving.

It predates most of the world religious holidays that occur during this season, including Christmas and Ramadan.

Some of the other traditions that are associated with Chanukah are latkes, gelt and dreidles.

Latkes are pancakes that are made from shredded potatoes that are fried and eaten hot with either applesauce or sour cream. Originally, the pancakes were made of cheese.

By far the oldest tradition associated with the celebration of Chanukah is the giving of Gelt. “Gelt,” from the Yiddish word “money,” is traditionally given as gifts, and used in the dreidel game. The tradition of giving small monetary gifts dates back to the time after the Maccabee revolt. Today, gelt can be money or chocolate coins covered in gold foil. Israel mints special gelt coins every year.

The dreidel (a four-sided spinning top that has a Hebrew letter on each side) is used in an adaptation of an old German gambling game, with the winner often receiving gelt.

While the reasons for celebrating Chanukah have changed over the centuries, the story and associated traditions have not. The story of Chanukah is the struggle for religious freedom, and a testament to the enduring legacy of the Jewish heritage.

Muslims take time during Ramadan to reflect

By Airman 1st Class Tammy Holland
355th Wing

All praises due to Allah, from whom we seek help and forgiveness during Ramadan, the master of months.

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, starts before dawn with a meal and a prayer similar to the one above, thanking Allah for his many blessings and asking for help to fast for that day.

Ramadan lasts a lunar month and is a time for Muslims to fast from dawn until sunset, beginning and ending with the birth of the new moon.

Because the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycles, Ramadan is not observed the same time every year.

This year Ramadan is observed Nov. 25 through Dec. 25.

Fasting, one of the five principles of Islam, is for self-purification, will power and encourages compassion for those less fortunate who feel hunger and thirst.

Fasting means that one abstains from eating and drinking, withholds anger or unkind thoughts and abstains from sexual activity during the specified times.

Although fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam, it is not unique to Islam.



Photo credit

Members of Davis-Monthan AFB's Muslim community discuss Ramadan during a recent prayer meeting.

It helps to enhance divine worship and improve the moral and spiritual condition.

Ramadan is the month that the Holy Qur'an was revealed, making it the master of months, and Friday the master of days.

The Holy Qur'an, the scripture of Islam, was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel and written during his lifetime.

The Qur'an was the last scripture revealed and Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet sent by Allah.

Muslims receive Ramadan with repentance,

sincerity, generosity and compulsory fasting.

The Holy Qur'an warns Muslims against hating, grudges, malice, backbiting, slandering, lying, hypocrisy and fornication.

Muslims believe Allah intentionally made us imperfect and the month of Ramadan helps to remind us, in our forgetfulness, of Allah's decrees and mercy.

Ramadan ends with a three-day celebration. This joyous and festive occasion is known as Eid al-Fitr. On this day, Muslims attend a special congregational prayer in the morning. After the completion of prayers and a special sermon, Muslims greet and hug one another saying, "Eid Mubarak," which means "Holiday Blessings." It is also customary for Muslims to invite friends and family to mosque and into their homes for shared meals and gift giving, much like the Christmas holidays.

As a Muslim, Ramadan is a time for me to reflect on the blessings and mercy Allah. Ramadan also helps me to appreciate the simple things in life such as eating and drinking and to give thanks and praise for the sun, the moon, the stars, the rain and all that Allah has created. Fasting gives me the opportunity to demonstrate to Allah that I believe in his sovereignty and mercy and to acknowledge that his decrees and laws are for the benefit and well being of his people.

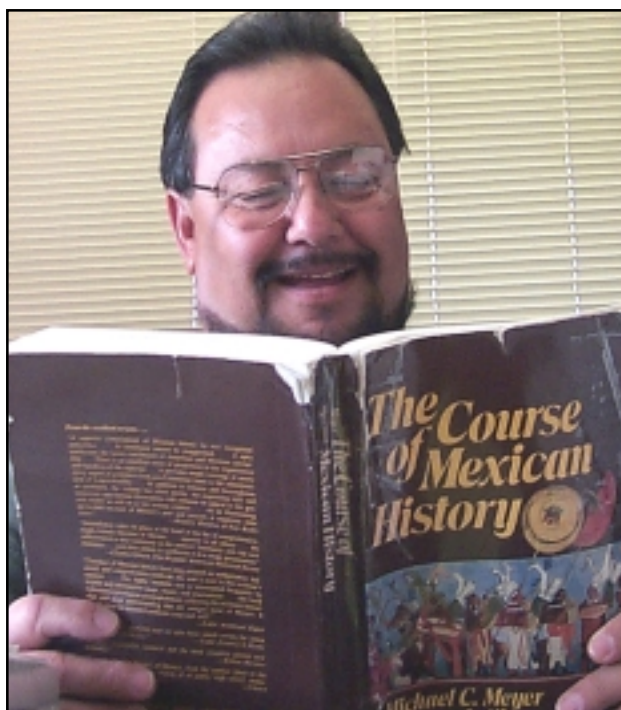
MEO chief remembers Navida en mi casa (Christmas in my house)

By Carlos Torres
355th Wing

As far back as I can remember, being the youngest of eight sisters and brothers, we would all sit and listen to my great grandmother tell us stories and sing Mexican Christmas carols. My great grandmother was born in Silao, Guanajato, Mexico in 1885. She came to the U.S. before Arizona became a state, in 1912. I can also remember her cooking for the holidays. We still keep tradition in cooking and singing a few of the Christmas carols she use to sing to us. However, as Mexican-Americans, we also had the traditional American Christmas, with Santa Clause, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, sang the American Christmas carols as well. I guess you could call it a "bilingual Christmas."

December 12, we would (even today it continues) celebrate "Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe" (Our Lady of Guadalupe) Feast Day. We'd start preparing for this day around Dec. 10, which signals the Christmas season. It's a day to give thanks to the Virgin Mary for easing our daily burdens, and protecting our homes and children.

"La Virgin de Guadalupe" was first sighted in Mexico in 1531. She appeared on the hill of Tepayacac to a native of Cuautitlan by the name of Juan Diego. She asked him to go to the Bishop, Father Juan de Zumarraga, from Tlatilolco with a message she wanted a church built on the hill of Tepayacac. Father Zumarraga did not believe Juan Diego and asked him to bring proof of the apparitions. On the fourth appearance, Our Lady told him to pick some flowers, which should not have been growing during that time of the year, as proof of her appearance. Juan Diego did as he was



Senior Airman Shanda De Anda

Carlos Torres takes a break from his duties as Chief, 355th Wing Military Equal Opportunity, to catch up on Mexican History.

told and took the flowers to Father Zumarraga. When the flowers fell to the floor the image of the Blessed Mother was impressed on his tilma (a cactus fiber shirt). The image and tilma remain on display at the church built for her in Mexico City.

After the feast of "Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe" we would start preparing for "Las Posadas." We would go to church and get together with other folks from the neighborhood and plan a candlelight procession from Dec. 16 through 24. The group

would re-enact St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary's search for lodging, going from house to house. During this time they would be sent away until they found someone who said they could stay. The house we would go to was predetermined, there we would have refreshments: champurro (a thick cream hot chocolate drink), Horchata (rice water, cinnamon, and vanilla), Buñuelos (resembles a deep fried tortilla), tamales, and menudo or pozole.

This activity taught our kids the story of the Nativity, all the way up to Noche Buena (Christmas Eve).

Christmas Eve, we would go the Misa de Gallo (Rooster's Mass or Midnight Mass), and afterwards, come home and have tamales, other foods and drink. We would end the night with opening gifts and generally going on to the wee hours. Saving Dec. 25 as a day to rest and celebrate the holiday.

The observance continued after Christmas and went on to Jan. 6.

After Christ is born we looked forward to El Dia de los Reyes Magos (The Three Kings Day). This was to observe the arrival of the "Wise Men" bearing gifts to Baby Jesus. In some regions (we didn't do this, since we had our gifts on Christmas Eve) kids would leave their shoes out by a window in hopes they would be filled with toys and other gifts from the Reyes.

This is how we celebrated the Christmas in my house. The tradition continues, although, not quite as long and as elaborate. However, my family continues to share the tradition by telling our children the meaning for the celebrations so they wouldn't forget the tradition and pass it on to their children. Most of the Catholic churches in the local area continue to celebrate Christmas in the old traditional ways.

Senior leaders send holiday greetings

As we approach the New Year, we celebrate the spirit of the season and reflect on the blessings we enjoy as Americans. A nation at peace, the freedom to pursue dreams, and the promise of a safe, secure future - these are the blessings built on the sacrifice, dedication and commitment of you - our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen and DOD civilians. You remain on duty throughout the holidays - guarding freedom's frontiers with unrelenting vigilance.

During this special season, our thoughts and prayers go out to all who serve - especially those serving far from home, performing difficult, even dangerous missions, apart from family and loved ones. Each of you is a national treasure - a bright and shining light illuminating the spirit of peace and hope. The difference you make is not measured in the abstract but in the lives you help and protect.

From my family to yours - Carolyn and I wish each of you a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year.

Army Gen. Henry Shelton
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



ing vital missions all around the globe and here at home. From the Balkans to Southwest Asia...from East Timor to Mozambique...from the missile silos in North Dakota to the training fields of Texas, and in more than 150 nations this year, America's Air Force - Regular, Reserve, Guard and Civilian - serves faithfully, providing security for our nation and defending its freedoms. You, America's Airmen, are the foundation of our force...smart, sharp, loyal and tough. No one comes close.

This holiday season gives us time to pause and reflect. First in our minds is a deep and abiding sense of appreciation for the service and sacrifice that you and your families make.



F. Whitten Peters
Secretary of the Air Force

We are proud and honored to serve with you. We wish you and yours the happiest of holidays and the very best in the New Year.



Gen. Michael Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

nation with airmen who represent the pride, honor and commitment of our Air Force.

Holidays spent overseas and stateside with my own, and extended, Air Force families have produced many fond memories. Those memories have reinforced the strong sense of teamwork and commitment we have throughout Air Combat Command and the Air Force. The holiday season emphasizes the selflessness of those people who defend our country and help foster peace all over the globe.

I am honored to lead the ACC team and I truly appreciate all that you do. Please take the time this busy season to express your appreciation to those most important people in your lives - look for opportunities to say "thank you" to your families for being there to support you and our mission.

As we look into the New Year, let's re-commit ourselves to continue to provide the world's greatest airpower to America, and be grateful for the team we have both at work and at home to accomplish that job.

I thank my family for all the support they've given me and I thank you for serving in our Air Force.

Happy holidays and a joyous New Year from the Jumper family.



Gen. John Jumper
Air Combat Command Commander

The year 2000 is rapidly drawing to a close and as they have for so many years, America's Airmen are proudly and professionally perform-

During this holiday season we are once again reminded of how fortunate we are to serve our

Ryan stresses safety awareness for winter/holidays

By Gen. Michael Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

Fellow airmen - the winter/holiday season is upon us and it's time to tackle those risks which increase during this period. Winter adds challenges to our day-to-day ground and air activities, and although they're not new, their risks demand that we put them in proper perspective and into our daily crosscheck.

History has shown us that the winter/holiday season brings more potential for hazardous driving conditions, alcohol related incidents, hunting mishaps, and injuries related to increased

indoor activities. Last year during the holidays we unfortunately lost three valuable Air Force members. Each incident was tied directly to these increased seasonal risks.

Winter weather also presents additional operational challenges. Wet/icy runways, taxiways and parking aprons, reduced visibilities during all phases of flight, colder temperatures, and windy conditions all impact both our aircrews and our support personnel.

Typically during the holiday season, our local operational tempo is decreased and continuity can suffer.

As we enjoy the holiday season,

I ask each of you to increase your vigilance, and when the much deserved pause is over, all personnel involved in our mission must take a crawl, walk, run approach as we power up to normal operations.

A specific flying safety issue where we must reverse the trend is mid-air mishaps. We have had a rash of near-misses and several accidents which unfortunately took the lives of an Air Force pilot and a civilian. Commanders, supervisors, flight leaders and aircrews must increase their awareness in this area. We must reinforce attention to detail in planning and execution, and

identify areas of potential conflict with civilian aircraft, other military traffic, and our own flight members. I am confident we can reverse these adverse flight trends and go on to make FY01 the best safety aviation year ever.

We are all aware of the risks associated with our on- and off-duty activities. However, mishap prevention goes beyond awareness; mishap prevention occurs when we put discipline and control into our daily activity. With continued vigilance we can continue to improve on last years' excellent safety record. Enjoy a safe holiday, and have a very successful and safe 2001.



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Chapel events

Protestant schedule

Today: Aim High Bible Study, 7 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel annex. Call 889-1715 for more information.

Saturday: Couples' Bible Study, 7 p.m., call 749-5550 for more information.

Sunday: Contemporary Worship Service, 8:30 a.m., Hope Chapel; Sunday School, 10 a.m., Desert Dove and Hope Chapels; Traditional Worship Service, 11:15 a.m., Desert Dove Chapel annex; Inspirational Gospel Worship Service, 11:15 a.m., Hope Chapel.

Tuesday: Ladies Bible Studies: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., (nursery provided), Desert Dove Chapel, or 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel; Singles Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Building 3220; Bible Study for Moms, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel.

Wednesday: Mid-week Bible Study, noon, Desert Dove Chapel; Promise Keepers Bible Study, 11:30 a.m., 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron conference room in Building 4810; Prayer and Teaching Time, 7 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel; Youth Night, for middle and high school groups, Desert Dove Chapel, 7 p.m.; Angel Bible Study and choir for elementary groups, 7 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel classrooms.

Catholic schedule

Saturday: Mass, 5 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel; Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Joseph's Church, 4 to 5 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 7:30 and 10 a.m., Desert Dove Chapel; Sacrament of Reconciliation, 9:15 to 9:45 a.m., Desert Dove Chapel.

Monday through Friday: Rosary, 11:10 a.m., Hope Chapel; Mass or communion service, 11:30 a.m., Hope Chapel.

Wednesday: Rite for Christian Initiation 7 to 8:30 p.m., Desert Dove Chapel.

Islamic schedule

Today: Prayer service, noon to 2 p.m., Building 3220, third floor-west; educational classes, 6 to 8 p.m., Building 3220, third-floor west.



On-base clubs

Officers' Club

Today: Members' Christmas party, 5:30 p.m. Evening dining cancelled.

Saturday: Club closed until Jan. 2.

Monday: Merry Christmas!

Tuesday: Rose Wilson is our employee of the month.

Wednesday: Don't miss the New Year's party. Get tickets at the club, Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m.

Desert Oasis Enlisted Club

Today: Catfish buffet, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Evening dining cancelled. Membership Drive ends.

Saturday: Barber open, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sports Bar opens at 5 p.m.

Sunday: Club closed through Jan. 1. Cabana closed through Dec. 28.

Monday: Merry Christmas!

Tuesday: Membership Appreciation Night is next month.

Wednesday: New Year's Eve party, Sunday. Buy tickets at the club, Friday through Sunday.



Youth programs

Today: Preteen semi-formal dance at youth center, call 8-8844.

Saturday: Youth basketball starts Jan. 20, call 8-8373.

Monday: Merry Christmas! practice starts, call 8-8373.

Tuesday: Youth center closed today; Child Development Center and Family Day Care open today.

Wednesday: Basketball clinic begins at youth center, call 8-8373. Preteen pool tourney at youth center from 6 to 7 p.m.

Thursday: Basketball clinic, 6 to 8 p.m. today and Friday



Community events

Today: Club membership drive ends; join today for big incentives.

Saturday: Tennis courts closed for another month.

Sunday: Skeet and trap ranges open week-ends at 8 a.m.

Monday: Merry Christmas!

Tuesday: See Karchner Caverns, Jan. 19, call Information Tickets and Tours at 8-3700.

Wednesday: Chair massage today at the community center, call 8-3717.

Thursday: Red-Eye Open at golf course, Jan. 1, call 8-3734.

Dining facility holiday hours

Special Christmas hours are in effect, Monday, at the Desert Inn dining facility. Breakfast is 6 to 7:30 a.m. The holiday feast is 11 a.m. to noon, for meal-card holders, and noon to 2 p.m. for other active-duty diners, retirees and their immediate families. Dinner is 3 to 5 p.m. No midnight meal is served Monday. The flight kitchen is closed Saturday through Monday. Call the Desert Inn Dining facility at 8-5501 or 8-3072.

New Year's base celebrations

New Year's Eve parties this year are at the clubs and D-M Lanes. Officers' Club members dine on a prime rib and lobster buffet, and enjoy a live swing band. A continental breakfast is served at midnight. Members and bona fide guests pay \$35; all others pay \$40 (cost for dinner only is \$18). Phone 748-0660. The evening begins at 8 p.m., at the Desert Oasis Club. Members and guests are treated to music, entertainment, prizes, snacks and more. At midnight, a split of champagne is


served with breakfast. Members and bona fide guests are \$12; eligible non-members pay \$15. Call 748-8666. At the D-M Lanes, \$20 a person buys unlimited bowling, music, games, prizes, champagne for every lane and a full breakfast at midnight. Doors open at 7 p.m. Reserve at 8-3461. A limited number of rooms have been set aside at the Inn on Davis-Monthan for those who don't want to drive home after the party. Ask about rooms when you make party reservations.

Free rides after club parties

Partygoers at D-M clubs are eligible for a free ride home after the party. Rides, arranged by the on-duty club manager, are for those who feel impaired due to the consumption of alcohol. Riders will be taken home, anywhere in Tucson, but to no other destination. For information, call the Officers' club at 748-0660, or the Desert Oasis at 748-8666.

Services holiday hours

Only one 355th Services Squadron facility, the fitness center, is open Christmas Day. Fitness center and racquetball annex holiday hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. All other services facilities are closed Monday. Others close all or part of the holiday weekend, or after the holiday. The youth center is closed Sunday through Tuesday, and the skills center closes Saturday through Tuesday.



Family support

Baby basics

The next baby basics program for expectant mothers in their third trimester begins Jan. 9 from noon to 2 p.m. at the community center, Building 4201. Pat Boyd, registered nurse, presents this session. Boyd will provide information on basic infant care, growth and development. For questions or to sign up, call 8-5690.

Air Force Aid Education Grant

When collecting financial resources for college, don't forget about the Air Force aid society's "General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant." This grant provides \$1,500 to eligible active-duty spouses and dependents. The closing date is March 15. Applications can be picked up at the family support center 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information contact the family support center, at 8-5690.

Resume/interview workshop

The family support center conducts a resume writing workshop Jan. 9 from 8 to 10 a.m. After learning how to write a quality resume, attend the interview workshop 8 to 11 a.m. Jan. 16 to help prepare for the job interview. Both workshops are held in the community center. For more information or reservation

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tions, contact the FSC at 8-5690.

VA benefits briefing

Individuals who are 180 days from separating or retiring should attend one of the monthly transition assistance program seminars and receive the veterans affairs briefing on loans, education, and disability benefits. The family support center conducts an extra Veterans Affairs benefit briefing each month for members who are unable to attend the primary one. The next briefing is 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 4 at the community center, Building. 4201. Call 8-5690 for reservations.

Smooth move

The family support center will conduct its next smooth move briefing 8 to 11 a.m. Jan. 3 at the community center, Building 4201. This briefing will cover many topics related to making a permanent change of station move. The briefing is open to military members, Department of Defense employees, and their spouses. Reservations are required. Call 8-5690 for reservations.



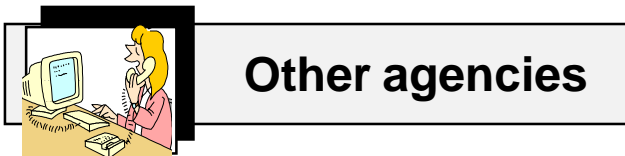
Education services

Education test center closed

The education test center is closed Tuesday through Jan. 2. Testing will resume Jan. 3. For more information, call Phil King at 8-4249.

Scanner malfunction

Until further notice, the base education testing center will not be able to scan CLEP or DANTES tests for unofficial results. Direct any questions to Phil King at 8-4249.



Other agencies

Couples class

Family advocacy is offering a Relationship Enhancement Class for couples. As this is a prevention activity, no family advocacy or mental health record will be opened and there will be no entries in participant's medical records. This will be a psycho-educational program, designed to teach couples skills to strengthen communication, facilitate problem solving and conflict resolution, and manage anger. Those class participants experiencing difficulties that could place them at risk of having a maltreatment incident can be seen for one to four couples counseling sessions. Those needing marital therapy will need to continue to utilize off base resources. Contact Nancy Williams at 8-2104, to schedule an intake appointment.

Stay in Tucson for the holidays

Room reservations can be made now at the

Inn on Davis-Monthan. Reservations can be made on a space-available basis for up to five days, today through Jan. 3, with a major credit card. Call 8-3309 during normal duty hours, or 8-3230 (Ext. 0) at all other times.

Operation Dear Abby

Anyone who is interested in spreading goodwill and cheer to military men and women around the world this holiday season can do so through "Operation Dear Abby" now through Jan. 15. To ensure mail is received within the required time frame and adheres to the Department of Defense security guidelines, mail must be limited to first-class letter mail weighing 13 ounces or less. When sending mail to a specific location, people are asked to address it to the closest geographic hub, which will distribute the mail to all services in the area that it supports. The following are this year's address:

EUROPE AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Any Service Member
OPERATION DEAR ABBY
APO AE 09135

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

Any Service Member
OPERATION DEAR ABBY
FPO AE 09646

FAR EAST

Any Service Member
OPERATION DEAR ABBY
APO AP 96285

PACIFIC BASIN

Any Service Member
OPERATION DEAR ABBY
FPO AP 96385

Operation Dear Abby is a program that began 16 years ago by Abigail Van Buren, who is known through her nationally syndicated column "Dear Abby." For more information, call the 355th Public Affairs office at 8-3204.

Vacation at Vandenberg AFB

Vacation At Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. in December. Active duty military, DOD civilians on leave, and retired military can make reservations now for today through Jan. 4 at Vandenberg Lodge, Vandenberg AFB, Calif., for a wonderful winter break. Prices are: \$21.50 per couple per night. Book now and you can reserve up to seven days in our quality lodging facilities. The lodge have a host of exciting things to do at this spot on the California coast. Make reservations by calling DSN: 276-1844, or commercial: (805) 734-1111.

Entertainment book

The new Entertainment book is on sale now at Information, Tickets & Tours. Two-for-one coupons are good at hundreds of local restaurants and fast-food locations, and other coupons offer discounts on travel, hotels, car rentals and other goods and services. Entertainment 2001 books cost \$35 and are valid through

Nov. 1. Buy one at ITT, in Building 4430, or call 8-3700.

Christmas tree recycling

Recycle Christmas trees at the base recycle center at the corner of Yuma and Casa Grande Streets. Since the trees are used for composting purposes, all decorations, especially tinsel, must be removed prior to dropping it off at the center. The program will run from Dec. 26 through Jan. 15. For more information, call Joe Uremovich, center manager, at 8-2296.

AAFES facilities holiday hours

Army and Air Force Exchange Services facilities will observe the following holiday operating hours. They are as followed:

Base Exchange: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 1.

Home and Garden: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1.

Military Clothing Sales: closed Sunday through Jan. 1.

Class Six: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1.

Car Care Center: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1.

Shoppette: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Jan.1.

Burger King: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1.

Concession: Closed Sunday through Jan. 1.

Snack Bar: Closed Sunday through Jan. 1.

Fun Food BX Lobby: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 31; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1.

Vehicle registration/base decals

Effective immediately, all Davis-Monthan Air Force Base members who have a 2000 expiration decal on their vehicle can renew their decals to 2003. Vehicles can be re-registered at pass and registration in Building 3200 and at the visitor center near the Craycroft Road gate. Bring your ID card, drivers license, registration, proof of insurance and current decal number when registering vehicles. Both offices are closed on the weekend. Call 8-3224 for more information.



Movie theater

Today: The Contender, (R), 7 p.m

Saturday: Red Planet, (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Sunday: Closed.

Dec. 27: Dinosaur, (PG), 1 p.m.

Dec. 28: Space Cowboys, (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 29: Legend of Bagger Vance, (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Dec. 30: Snow Day, (PG), 7 p.m.

Dec. 31: Closed.